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Message Text

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71
ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 PA-02 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 104513 TOSEC 110447

FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, FRIDAY, APRIL 30

NO. 33

FOLLOWING ARE SPOKESMAN'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS AT DAILY PRESS BRIEFING FRIDAY, APRIL 30:

(1) 1959 RADIATION AT EMBASSY MOSCOW DURING V.P. NIXON'S VISIT -- SPOKESMAN SAID WE HAVE CHECKED OUR RECORDS AND FIND NO BASIS FOR STORY BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH TWO RETIRED SECRET SERVICE AGENTS. SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO CHECK ON QUESTION OF PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR GIVEN INDIVIDUALS BUT AGREED TO FIND OUT IF DEPARTMENT HAD TALKED TO RETIRED AGENTS.

(2) ASKED (BY REVEREND KINSOLVING) IF "19 AFRICAN MILITARY DICTATORSHIPS AND 20 AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS WHICH ALLOW ONLY ONE POLITICAL PARTY" ARE IN USG'S CONCEPTION "REPRESENTA-
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TIVE," SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO CHARACTERIZE AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS

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OR OFFER DEFINITIVE ANALYSIS OF DEGREES OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVE NATURE. PRESSED ON WHY USG IS APPLYING CRITERION TO RHODESIA, SPOKESMAN REFERRED TO SECRETARY'S REMARKS AT LUSAKA. WHEN ASKED IF DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED PROTEST FROM VATICAN REGARDING SECRETARY'S OFFER OF $12.5 MILLION TO MOZAMBIQUE DESPITE FACT THAT MOZAMBIQUE HAS ISSUED BAN ON INFANT BAPTISM, SPOKESMAN SAID WE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY SUCH PROTEST.

(3) SOVIET STATEMENT ON RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE -- SPOKESMAN SAID USG COMMITTED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT ASSIST PARTIES IN REACHING PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE THINK THERE IS BASIS FOR PROGRESS IN EXISTING U.N.S.C. RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338, AND WE CONTINUE TO BE IN TOUCH WITH GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED IN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE THIS PROGRESS. USG SPELLED OUT ITS POSITION CLEARLY DECEMBER 2, 1975, IN NOTE TO SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

(4) EXPLOSION IN PEKING -- USLO PEKING HAS REPORTED SUBSTANTIALLY SAME INFORMATION APPEARING IN MEDIA ON THIS INCIDENT. NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE TO ADD. WE WILL NOT SPECULATE ON OR ASSESS IMPORTANCE OF EXPLOSION.

(5) LIBERIA -- WHEN ASKED IF SECRETARY WILL ASK PRESIDENT TOLBERT TO ELIMINATE ARTICLE OF LIBERIAN CONSTITUTION STIPULATING RACIAL SEGREGATION, SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT SECRETARY IS FULLY BRIEFED ON LIBERIA.

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